

ALFRETON URBAN

District Council.



Dr. Edward Gaylor's

ANNUAL

REPORT for 1895.



From Jan. 1st, 1895, to Dec. 31st, 1895.



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Printed by J. N. JACKSON, Stationer, &c., King Street.

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ALFRETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dr. Edward Gaylor's 23rd Annual Report, 1895.

TO THE ALFRETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Twenty-third Annual Report, dealing with the Vital Statistics of your District for the year 1895. I am sorry to say it is not of so favourable a character as that of 1894.

There is a large *increase* in the number of Deaths, especially of children, and the year 1895 will also be remarkable by reason of the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which has prevailed in most parts of the District during the whole of the past year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.—The number of cases Notified under this Act has been abnormally large, due to the Scarlet Fever, as the following table will show :—

Small-pox	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	401
Diphtheria	...	...	...	8
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	5
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	19
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	15

Total 452

This Act was adopted in your District in 1892, in that year the cases Notified were 114; in 1893, 84; 1894, 81; and 1895, 452.

This looks a terrible catalogue, but we shall see farther on that it has not swelled the Zymotic Death Rate in the same proportion.

These Diseases were notified in the following parts of the District :—

Alfreton	...	...	...	91
Birchwood	...	...	...	41
Greenhill Lane	...	...	...	29
Ironville	...	...	...	12
Lea Brooks	...	...	...	15
Pye Bridge	...	...	...	2
Riddings	...	...	...	26
Somercotes	...	...	...	196
Swanwick	...	...	...	10

Total 452

Of these 452 cases, 170 were under the age of 5 years, and 282 above that age. We shall find that by far the greatest number of the above cases were of a very mild character, only causing a total of 21 Deaths, being at the rate of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole number. Of these Deaths, 10 were under 5 years of age, and 11 above that age, as below :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	11
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1
Membranous Croup	..	..	..	2
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	3
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	2

Total 21

Without specifying the particular and separate Diseases notified, the following months show the number of notifications in each, and help one to understand somewhat the fluctuations of the epidemic :

January	..	..	15
February	..	..	15
March	..	..	14
April	..	..	24
May	..	..	19
June	..	..	27
July	..	..	25
August	..	..	75
September	..	..	52
October	..	..	73
November	..	..	77
December	..	..	36

Total .. 452

We will now take the Notifiable and Zymotic Diseases in their order.

Small-pox.—During the year 1894 we had no cases of this Disease, though I then expressed my fears that this immunity would not long continue, as there was abundant evidence that the only *protective* against the Disease was being neglected almost everywhere.

The first case of Small-pox in 1895 was as follows :—

On the evening of April 3rd, I had notice that a travelling woman was admitted to a hospital at Mansfield, who had been lodging at Alfreton. It appeared she slept there from March 4th to March 18th, and showed the eruption on the 23rd of March. As the incubative period of the Disease is from 6 to 10 days, I considered it most probable she had the Disease before she left Alfreton. Of course, whilst she lodged at Alfreton, she went about the country, so that we have no means of knowing where she contracted the Disease. I immediately visited the lodging-house, and saw the bed and room in which the woman had slept; in the interval the bed linen had, of course, been washed. This room opened into another room with an open staircase to another above. I then ordered both rooms and staircases to be thoroughly disinfected, and walls and floors were washed with carbolic acid. The bed linen was exposed to sulphurous acid gas, and then boiled. The keeper of this lodging-house did everything I wished, and assisted in every way, and the other beds, linen, and rooms were perfectly clean, and it is certainly the best kept lodging-house in my District. This Disease is of so dreadful and subtle a character, that it requires very vigorous and prompt measures.

We hadn't to wait more than another week, and a second case occurred in another part of the same lodging-house. A man 32 years of age had been lodging here two years, and working up and down the District as a jobbing painter, &c. It was not known whether he had been in the lodging-house next door, which belonged to the same person as the previous case, and the great probability is that the woman named above went in and out both houses during her stay there, and so gave this man the Disease, either by her presence

or atmospherical. The Disease is at times a long period in developing itself, and has no hard and fast line in the matter. This man went to a local doctor, who at once pronounced him to be suffering from Small-pox. In the result, he got removed to the Belper Workhouse, and so Alfreton was rid of a great danger.

A few days after this, there was another case of a child who belonged to another woman who had lodged here. She went to Belper with the little girl, 8 years of age, went about Belper begging with the child, and on Sunday (next morning) took it to the Belper Parish Doctor, sat in his surgery with it, and when the girl was seen, the case was pronounced to be Small-pox, and she went to the Belper Workhouse.

In the meantime, I had closed the lodging-house for a week, in order that everything might undergo a thorough overhauling. Every small nuisance outside was removed, and the approaches were well sprinkled over with chloride of lime, and all the walls, floors, bedding, and everything in the rooms thoroughly cleansed and fumigated—every room was lime-washed afresh. This house is situate in a somewhat cramped up position, and free currents of fresh air can't get at it very freely, in other respects it is a clean, well-conducted house.

Of course, if we had had a place for Small-pox patients, the danger of their removal to Belper would have been avoided, but I am very glad there is now every prospect of a new Isolation Hospital being erected.

We have gone through the question of getting a cottage suitable for these infectious cases, but the site, water supply, approaches, and other matters bristled with great difficulties, and the idea had to be abandoned.

The removal of these cases and the other precautionary measures, which were taken, effectually kept the District free from the Disease during the remainder of the year.

The next case was so clearly an imported one, as to cast no doubt on the foregoing sentences.

A woman, over 30 years of age, came from Belper to Alfreton on July 17th, (Small-pox was then in Belper,) and stayed here to the 19th. She went from Alfreton to Peterborough on a visit, and on the 22nd she felt poorly and went to bed, had a few spots on her on the 23rd, and no doctor was called in, but she left Peterborough and travelled to Alfreton by train on the 24th, and rode up from the station in the hotel omnibus, with other passengers to her friends at Alfreton. The Inspector visited me the same evening, but nothing could be done, there was neither power nor place of removal.

I came to Alfreton on the 25th, and found a small cottage had been taken for a time. The tenant went out, and the small-pox patient and the nurse were the only occupants of the cottage. I made it a Small-pox Hospital, under the Public Health Act, and the Council were able to isolate the case, procure the nurse, and discharge their liabilities.

I communicated with parties at Peterborough, but they never dreamed of Small-pox; there was none in the neighbourhood, and the woman herself had clearly taken it about with her from Belper.

The hotel omnibus was laid up for a fortnight, after having been thoroughly disinfected, before being used by the public again.

The woman was discharged on the 28th of August. She showed marks of vaccination, and, therefore, had the disease in a mild, modified form. She was never thoroughly ill, but the pocks were scattered about the body, and she was a source of danger and infection. In the absence of a disinfectant, the bedding, mattresses, &c., were destroyed by burning.

Scarlet Fever.—As will be seen above, this Disease assumed an epidemic form throughout almost the entire District, no less than 401 cases occurring between January 2nd (the date of the first case) and the 31st of December, 1895.

The following are the fatal cases which occurred:—

Female,	47 years,	Alfreton,	in June.
"	5	Lea Brooks,	" August.
"	7	Somercotes,	" "
"	9	"	" "
Male,	4 weeks,	"	" "
"	5 years,	Alfreton,	" September.
"	2	Somercotes,	" October.
"	11	"	" "
Female,	18 months,	Riddings,	" November.
"	3 years,	Alfreton,	" December.
Male,	7	Somercotes,	" "

The above shows that Somercotes had six fatal cases out of 184 cases of Scarlet Fever notified.

Lea Brooks—one out of nine notified.

Alfreton—three cases out of 82 cases.

Riddings—one case out of 22 cases.

August appeared to be the most fatal month—between January 2nd and June 3rd 114 cases of Scarlet Fever had been notified before one death had occurred.

As before said, 401 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year, and in 227 houses there was one case of the disease in each.

In 56 houses there were 174 cases, as follows:—

3 houses had 6 cases of Fever in each.

5	"	5	"	"
7	"	4	"	"
12	"	3	"	"
29	"	2	"	"

This shows a total of 283 infected houses, distributed all over the District, that is to say with Scarlet Fever.

The great majority of these cases were visited by me, sometimes with and at other times without the Inspector. Printed instructions were left at the houses, and the premises inspected with a view to stay the ravages of the Disease, though I do not believe an insanitary condition ever produced a case of *Scarlet Fever*, yet there can be no doubt, that where there is filth, dirt, and an absence of sanitation, it makes persons living there more susceptible of any epidemic, and the conditions which exist form a very suitable soil, so to speak, for the growth, multiplication, and spread of the Disease.

I have ceased to wonder at its dissemination and its continuance for so long a period, when we consider how closely situate a large portion of the population are—long rows of cottages with backyards in common—the large number of colliers whose houses are not of the cleanest, with some very praiseworthy exceptions—the general mixing up together by way of gossip—fashion of going to look at each other's children as soon as they are ill, with a view to compare the conditions of their respective children under the same conditions—the evident reluctance for soap and water—and the disbelief in sanitary matters at all, coupled with, in many cases, the belief that the Disease is sent by Providence for some good purpose, and that it is wicked to interfere with it, add to all this the fondness there is for all the neighbourhood to go and view a fatal case before its interment, and you get some ideas of the difficulties there are in the way of its curtailment. Of course, I satisfy myself at an early period of the outbreak that milk had nothing to do with it, though some cowsheds and dairies were not at all in a satisfactory condition, in some instances the milk comes from some other district, and in others it is bought from the farmer, and retailed by the second owner. There is no doubt that is an important factor in warding off Disease

and it is a cleanliness "which means more than is ordinarily understood by the word, it deals with air, water, food, clothing, houses, infected persons, and excludes or destroys the invisible germs of Disease."

Diphtheria.—The following cases were notified:—

Male,	14 years,	Alfreton,	in January.
"	5	"	" February.
Female,	3	Ironville,	" "
"	25	"	" May.
"	3	"	" June.
"	19	Alfreton,	" July.
Male,	4	Ironville,	" November.
Male,	6	Riddings.	" "

The only fatal case was that of a female, aged 3 years, in June.

It may be noticed that there were four cases of Diphtheria at Ironville.

The cause of the Disease, as far as Ironville is concerned, cannot be attributed to any particular insanitary condition; as is well known, the dry earth system, with its regular removal from the houses, is in use there; they have a good water supply, there seems to be no overcrowding, and I could discover no reason at all for the cases.

It is a Disease of a very mysterious as well as dangerous character. It may be produced by milk, pigeons, fowls, rabbits, and, not least, by domestic cats, damp houses, foul rain water washed from roofs, especially where pigeons have been kept.

Close, pent up houses, without a free current of air, make the inmates weakly and susceptible to disease; persons with constant sore throats are very liable, and though it may not be produced by insanitary conditions like some diseases, yet it is absolutely necessary to remove every accumulation of filth, to drain the soil well, to flush sewers, cleanse dwellings, and watch particularly for any ailments of domesticated animals.

It is caused by a microbe that has never yet been found *outside* the human body; it is one of the most fatal diseases we have to contend with, and can be promoted by impure air, polluted soil, bad drainage, overcrowding and bad ventilation.

The Council may not know that the County Council have empowered Dr. Barwise, who is conversant with the science of bacteriology, which is so largely connected with Diphtheria, to examine and report upon (for any medical man) specimens of the membrane from the patient, so that the true Diphtheria Bacillus may be discovered, and thus prove we are dealing with no spurious form of the Disease, such as inflammation of the tonsils and other simple sore throats.

Dr. Barwise's report will be sent in about fourteen hours after the receipt of the specimen sent.

Membranous Croup.—This Disease is so closely allied with Diphtheria, that it is included in the Notifiable Diseases.

The following cases of the Disease have occurred during the year:—

Female,	4 months,	at Lea Brooks,	in March.
Male,	2 years,	at Somercotes,	in June.
Female,	6 months,	at Birchwood,	in "
Male,	63 years,	at Lea Brooks,	in November.
"	21 months,	at Birchwood,	in December.

The two deaths from the Disease occurred at Lea Brooks and at Birchwood.

In none of these cases was there anything particular to complain of in the sanitary arrangements.

Enteric, or Typhoid Fever.—The first case was that of a child, a year old, at Lea Brooks, who died after five weeks illness. On the premises was a very filthy privy midden, and there was no ashpit. The house was a close one, and had no back door to admit of a free current of air.

The next case was at Greenhill Lane, a child two and a half years old. This was the same state of

things as above, no back door, filthy closet. The child had recovered partly from the Disease, went out of the house, and had a relapse.

The next case was at Golden Valley, a child 3 years old, everything was perfectly sanitary, and the case did well.

This was followed by a man aged 40 years, at Birchwood Lane. He had just recovered from Influenza when Typhoid seized him. The premises were not bad, there was a nasty accumulation of dirt close to the back door, and heaps of ashes down the yard, they couldn't get them removed, it showed how useful scavenging would be in this neighbourhood.

Another two cases occurred in one house at Somercotes, aged 6 and 9 years respectively. A more shocking and disgusting condition of things couldn't be imagined. It was one of 12 houses in a row, and was a hothed of Fever and Disease, closets without doors, some without seats, cesspools as nasty as could possibly be; both cases did well.

The next case was in the Market-place, a young man of 17 years. The house scrupulously clean, rather close surroundings, and drains under living room.

The next occurred at Somercotes, a boy four and a half years of age. The house clean, drains well flushed, yard tidy, bad case, but did well.

Next case was at Sleetmoor, a girl, aged 6 years, died of the Disease, after a few days' illness. The sanitary conditions were all right.

Next case at Somercotes, a boy, 6 years of age. House, one of four in a row, there were here four adults and seven children in two bedrooms, and one living room—certainly overcrowded—and no back door. Boy with Fever in room where other bed for three more to sleep in every night, said they couldn't get another house. Since this occurrence, same family have had five cases of Scarlet Fever in same house.

Another mild case was at Pentrich-lane, Swanwick, young man 17 years of age, closets, &c., all right, bottom of garden, away from houses, one of seven in a row, use four closets.

Next case at Sleetmoor-lane, a child, 4 years of age, went on very well—no insanitary conditions, house stands by itself away from the public road, with a fair private water supply.

Next case occurred at Alfreton, young girl, 9 years of age, mild case—no insanitary conditions, case did well.

Next case also at Alfreton, a woman, 32 years of age, of so mild a type as to make it difficult of diagnosis, did very well.

Next case at Somercotes, woman, 29 years of age—lived in new property, everything about it strictly modern sanitary conditions, case recovered.

This completes the cases of Typhoid Fever. There were in all 19 cases, and three deaths.

The Deaths occurred as under:—Lea Brooks 1, Somercotes 1, and Sleetmoor 1.

All the cases reported, except one, had plentiful supply of public water, and any nuisances mentioned in connection with them were, of course, removed and attended to. Disinfectants were used, though not so freely as they might be, and the excrement was all buried in the earth.

The Typhoid Fever cases were in the following localities:—

Alfreton	..	..	..	..	3
Birchwood	..	..	..	..	1
Greenhill Lane	..	..	..	..	5
Lea Brooks	..	..	..	..	2
Sleetmoor	..	..	..	..	2
Somercotes	..	..	..	..	5
Swanwick	..	..	..	..	1

Total 19

The milk supply was investigated in these cases, and all of them visited, and printed instructions left at the houses. In only one or two cases could the patient be isolated.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year; one at Somercotes, the other at Alfreton; both recovered. Both were attended in the first instance by midwives. The usual course was pursued, and neither case had any insaniary connection.

Erysipelas.—This Disease is mentioned here because it forms one of the notifiable group. There have been 15 cases during the year, but all were of the simplest character; it was not at all necessary to include this Disease in Districts like our own.

There may be forms of Erysipelas in very large thickly populated towns which ought to be notified, but these 15 cases were quite independent of anything to do with sanitary work, but while it is the law, it must be notified.

Measles.—This Disease is not notifiable, so I have no means of knowing if it prevailed anywhere during the year, but there was one death registered from it, being a male, 2 years old, at Alfreton.

Diarrhea.—Nine cases of death were caused by this Disease; all were cases of Infantile Diarrhea, except in case of a woman 59 years of age, who had been ailing for a long period, and suffered from the Disease the last few days of life. Diarrhea in infants is well known to be caused by all sorts of improper food, and very often for the want of its mothers milk. Some of the cases were fed exclusively with the bottle and cows milk; others with Swiss condensed milk, and others with food "such as we have ourselves" was the reply to my questions, so that I feel assured the Diarrhea was not the product of insaniary conditions.

Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.—This fearful class of Disease was the cause of 38 deaths, 19 being under the age of 5 years, and 19 above that age. This is a terrible catalogue of deaths from a Disease which is fast getting near classifying as an Infectious and Preventible Disease.

Some of the causes which aggravate and go far in the direction of its causation are the building of houses with common porous bricks, which can soak up a large quantity of water and create dampness. It is said that a porous brick can take up 10 or 12 ounces of water.

Then there is often no fire-place in the bedroom, or, if there is, it is often stopped up so as to stop proper ventilation. Oil lamps burning in bedroom taking away all the oxygen required—breathing and re-breathing the same air over and over again—nothing is so likely to cause Phthisis as foul air, and there should always be a renewal of pure air in plenty.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.—Twenty-three children under 5 years of age died from these Diseases, and 32 persons over that age, making a total of 55.

The severity and long continuance of the winter of 1895 had certainly some influence in causing these deaths, but in very many of the 23 cases of children, would be caused by exposure with insufficient clothing and a want of supervision in preventing them playing in damp, dirty yards, where sunshine is unknown, and allowing them to run in and out of the house at all weathers.

Heart Disease.—Twenty-one cases of this affection, all over the age of 5 years, succumbed to this Disease.

Inquest Cases.—The following are the Inquests which have been held during the year:—

Male, 67 years—Suddenly (probably from Bronchitis), at Swanwick.

Male, 22 years—Fall of Coal in Colliery at Swanwick.

Male, 16 months—Accidentally scalded at Swanwick.

Male, 3 years—Accidentally run over at Swanwick.

Male, 38 years—Suicide by hanging at Greenhill Lane

Female, 14 days—Suffocation in bed at Alfreton.

Male, 64 years—Syncope at Alfreton.

Influenza.—Two cases of this Disease terminated fatally in March; both children, one 8 months, the other 7 months old, both at Alfreton.

Uncertified Deaths.—

Female, 10 months, Convulsions, at Somercotes
" 1 " " " Riddings

Male, 46 years, Heart Disease, " "

Female, 25 days, Premature Birth, Swanwick

" 3 months, Convulsions, Alfreton

Male, 76 years, General Decay, " "

Female, 54, Diseased Liver, Riddings

Female, 3 months, Convulsions, Lea Brooks

" 57 years, Heart Disease, Riddings

These Uncertified Deaths have had no medical attendance, and the Registrar of the District puts the supposed cause as the result of the best information he can get: there was some years ago a good deal of unqualified practice in some parts of the District, and then this list was sometimes very large.

Cancer.—These cases are put here because it is said Cancer is on the increase in England. I am inclined to think it is due to a more minute diagnosis and general knowledge of the Disease.

Female, 77 years, Cancer of Abdomen, Ironville

" 53 " Cancer of Stomach, " "

" 57 " Cancer of Breast, Riddings

Male, 39 " Cancer of Liver, Somercotes

Female, 48 " Cancer of Breast, Swanwick

" 35 " Cancer of Liver, Alfreton

Male, 62 " Cancer of Gullett, " "

" 56 " Cancer of Neck, Greenhill Lane

Deaths from all Causes.—142 males and 144 females died during the year 1895, making a total of 286, as against 216 in the year 1894, and 277 in 1893, so that we have a greatly increased mortality for the present year.

Of these 286 deaths, there were no less than 139 who died in infancy—this is about 48 per cent. of the whole number, and equals a death rate of 8.21 per 1,000, so that half or (nearly so) of your total death rate depends upon child mortality.

These 139 deaths had a mean age at death of not quite 7 months.

The total death rate for the year 1895 is 16.87 per 1,000, as against 12.98 per 1,000 last year.

This difference in the rate of mortality is not so much due to the Scarlet Fever Epidemic, as to the very large number very young, and very old.

Fifty-five deaths had a mean age of 75 years—equal to 3.25 per 1,000, or 19 per cent. of the whole number.

The male death rate was 8.34 per 1,000, the female death rate 8.51 per 1,000.

The total mean death rate for 23 years is 15.46 per 1,000, and this is the best in attaching value to death rates, because you are bound to have exceptional years, both high and low.

The deaths were registered in the following parts of the District:—

Alfreton	...	...	...	63
Birchwood	...	...	...	22
Greenhill Lane	...	...	...	29
Ironville	...	...	...	30
Lea Brooks	...	...	...	22
Pye Bridge	...	...	...	4
Riddings	...	...	...	29
Sleetmoor	...	...	...	13
Somercotes	...	...	...	50
Swanwick	...	...	...	24

Total 286

The Deaths occurred in the following Quarters of the Year :—

March Quarter	..	..	..	74
June Quarter	..	..	..	76
September Quarter	..	..	..	71
December Quarter	..	..	..	65
Total	..	..	..	286

Statistical Summary of the Year's Mortality :—

DEATHS	PER CENT.			
Under 1 year old	99	..	5.85	per 1000, or 14
1 year and under 5 yrs. 139	..	8.21	..	48
5 and under 15 years .. 14	..	.82	..	4
15 .. 25 years .. 12	..	.7	..	4
25 .. 65 years .. 66	..	3.9	..	23
65 years and upwards .. 55	..	3.25	..	19
Zymotic Deaths	25	..	1.47	8
Uncertified	9	..	.53	3
Tubercular Diseases....	38	..	2.24	13
Bronchitis	53	..	3.13	18
Heart Disease	21	..	1.24	7
Bowel Disease	20	..	1.18	6
Brain Disease	9	..	.53	3
Debility	22	..	1.3	7
Convulsions	13	..	.76	4
Male Deaths	142	..	8.34	49
Female Deaths	144	..	8.51	50

The number of Diseases notified was 452. The total Deaths from the same Diseases was 21; this is equal to 4.64 per cent.

The total number of Deaths from Scarlet Fever is 11; the number that was notified, 401; so that the Deaths were 2.74 per cent.

It is the opinion of some authorities that Scarlet Fever seems to be undergoing a change in its severity, and the above appears to bear it out; some years ago 15 per cent. of Deaths was about the average, now we think 5 per cent. very high, and in this instance it is less than 3 per cent.

Infantile Mortality.—This is measured by the total number of Births during the year, and the number of Deaths under one year of age. In your District this year it is as high as 170 per 1,000. Last year it was 159 per 1,000.

It is to be feared that one cause of Infantile Mortality is the reluctance to call in medical aid, and yet it is as cheap as any other necessity. If disease is more prevalent in infant life, it doesn't follow that death should ensue.

There is great mortality among artificially-fed infants,

In Berlin, the Certificate of Death of Infants states upon it whether the child has been brought up at the breast or fed upon artificial food, and it was found that out of 10,000 deaths of infants 7,646 of them had been fed upon artificial food.

It will be a good thing when children can have separate beds. In some of the cramped-up courts, alleys, and slums of some of our large towns, we may expect infant mortality to be high, for want of sunlight and air; but in Alfreton it ought not to be so.

It would be quite as important as is the present rage for cooking lessons if a sort of Woman's Health Society was formed for the purpose of diffusing knowledge as to laws of health among the poor people, instructing them on infant feeding, cleanliness, clothing, and everything which would make the home healthy.

The Causes of Death were as follows :—

DISEASES.	UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.		ABOVE 5 YEARS OF AGE.		TOTAL.
	
Scarlet Fever ..	6	..	5	..	11
Diphtheria ..	1	..	..	..	1
Membranous Croup ..	1	..	1	..	2
Typhoid Fever ..	2	..	1	..	3
Erysipelas ..	..	..	2	..	2
Measles ..	1	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea ..	8	..	1	..	9
Cancer ..	..	..	8	..	8
Tubercular Disease ..	19	..	19	..	38
Spinal Disease ..	1	..	2	..	3
Brain Disease ..	8	..	1	..	9
Epilepsy ..	..	..	1	..	1
Paralysis ..	..	..	4	..	4
Apoplexy ..	..	..	6	..	6
Convulsions ..	13	..	..	..	13
Bronchitis ..	23	..	32	..	55
Influenza ..	2	..	..	..	2
Heart Disease ..	..	..	21	..	21
Bowel Disease ..	13	..	7	..	20
Liver Disease ..	..	..	3	..	3
Urinary Disease ..	..	..	2	..	2
Uterine Disease ..	..	..	2	..	2
Renal Disease ..	..	..	3	..	3
Debility ..	22	..	..	..	22
Teething ..	5	..	..	..	5
Child Birth ..	..	..	1	..	1
Premature Birth ..	8	..	..	..	8
Old Age ..	..	..	16	..	16
Uncertified ..	4	..	5	..	9
Inquests ..	2	..	5	..	7
Totals ..	139		147		286

Total Death Rate for 1895, 16.87 per 1,000.

Mean Death Rate for 23 years, 15.46 per 1,000.

BIRTHS.

284 Boys and 297 Girls were born during the year, making a total of 581.

This gives a Birth Rate for the year of 34.21 per 1,000, which is a good deal above the General Birth Rate of England and Wales.

The Natural Increase of the Population is 295.

The Births were Registered in the following Quarters of the year :—

March Quarter	..	..	..	162
June Quarter	..	..	..	152
September Quarter	..	..	..	138
December Quarter	..	..	..	129
Total	..	..	..	581

The mean Birth Rate for 23 years is 33.32 per 1,000.

Official Inspection.—This is, of course, systematically done. Almost all the Notifiable cases are visited, except where I have a general knowledge of the locality from previous visits.

There have been about 151 Notices for Abatement of Nuisances served during the year.

Lodging-houses, visits ..	..	..	16
Milk-shops, &c. ..	..	..	25
Cow-sheds ..	..	..	108
Bake-houses ..	..	..	100
Slaughter-houses..	..	..	89

Altogether, some 947 Visits have been made for different purposes.

Disinfection.—This is a very serious question to the Council. People of a certain class won't do anything of the kind, and the consequence is Epidemics are never entirely got rid of.

In many cases, the floors are not even scoured—they make every room in the house more or less a Fever Room, and take no heed at all, especially as it has been this year a Fever of a mild character. No paper is stripped off the walls—no linen or clothing is exposed to the action of any Disinfectant, and in a short time the Disease seizes another inmate of the house.

I know this can't be done without expense, but there ought to be one of the Inspector's Assistants taught how to do it, and if properly and efficiently done, we shouldn't have Scarlet Fever hanging about the whole year.

The cost of notification would be materially reduced. Inspector Munslow couldn't possibly attend to all that, and his other duties also, but it is a question that lies at the root of the whole matter.

If an official order was given, and not carried out, then this Official could do the work, and the Council could recover the cost. I commend it to their notice.

Overcrowding.—A very bad case of overcrowding occurred during the year, but we removed the surplus number in 36 hours after we knew of it.

The inmates were as follows:—

Male	60 years.
Female	29 "
Male	32 "
Male	38 "
Female	26 "
Male	10 "
Male	6 "
Female	13 months
Male	9 "

There was one room only upstairs, with an open staircase and a cubic space of 468 feet, when there ought to have been 2,100 feet, counting two children as one adult.

The lower room was almost destitute of furniture, and as there was only *one bed* in the house, it is difficult to know how they distributed. Of course, everything was filthily dirty, and in 48 hours only three persons were left in the house.

Schools Closing.—I have deemed it advisable during the year to close Somercotes Schools, for a period of six weeks, and Riddings Schools for four weeks.

I am always reluctant to take this step, but I am convinced that Schools are great disseminators of Disease. Compulsory attendance is so rigidly enforced, that children must either go to school when slightly unwell or else get a Doctor's Certificate, which they are unwilling to pay for.

The cubic space which satisfies the Education Department is not ample enough, and though every effort is made to induce parents to send their children

to school in a cleanly condition, there are great numbers whose bodies are strangers to the bath, and the odour of a school generally betrays it. Schools ought to be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected at least twice a year, walls, ceiling, doors, seats, desks and floor, and everything which could retain any foul body exhalations.

I don't refer to the schools in your District particularly, but to schools in general, throughout a very large area.

There is a grave defect in the seating accommodation in the closets, and they require a sharp look out to keep them at all usable.

Scavenging.—I see that 3,298 loads of ashes and other refuse have been removed from Alfreton, but the other outside populous places cannot get rid of their accumulations, and they are spread about in all directions.

Water Supply.—This seems to be plentiful in quantity, and good in quality.

Isolation Hospital.—This question is happily in a fair way to become a real fact, and the boon to the District cannot be over estimated. We should have saved a vast amount of trouble and expense if our first notifiable cases could have been removed, and it could never have assumed such large proportions.

Pig-keeping.—I must again refer to this subject. I repeatedly have complaints about persons pigs, but scarcely ever interfere, because I have no fixed data to go upon. I know there are pigs kept which are a thorough nuisance, and there are others to which no objection could be made.

If some bye-laws existed, your Officers would soon compel some of them to keep them cleaner. It is quite surprising how cleanly some pigs are kept, and couldn't be called a nuisance by the most fastidious.

My Annual Report for 1895 is now at an end, and I feel conscious of having done really good sanitary work during the year. Your District is in a fair condition, with some few exceptions, which I have pointed out.

I acknowledge the assistance which the Council has readily given me, when my Reports needed it.

I have a good colleague in Mr. Munslow, your Inspector, whom I am sorry to know is indisposed just now.

Mr. Houfton has kindly done his duty where it has been necessary, and we shall co-operate together.

To your Clerk, also, I feel my obligations; Officials of all grades have always found it necessary at times to communicate with the Clerk of the Council, and I have always found him ready with his advice and assistance.

I hope the mutual confidence which exists between myself as your Medical Officer of Health and the members of the Council, may be deserved and continued.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Belper, February 14th, 1896.

